
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Basich, Pennington, Johnson, Quall, Kremen, Fuhrman, Chappell, Hatfield, Backlund and Sheldon

Read first time 01/17/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Harbor seal and sea lion populations have greatly expanded
9 in recent years due to the almost absolute protection afforded them
10 under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Seals and sea lions are active predators upon anadromous
12 fish such as salmon and steelhead trout; and

13 WHEREAS, Anadromous fish populations are significantly reduced in
14 numbers throughout Washington state, and some stocks have been listed
15 as threatened or endangered species; and

16 WHEREAS, Many more anadromous fish stocks are likely to be listed
17 as threatened or endangered; and

18 WHEREAS, In order to allow certain salmon and steelhead populations
19 to recover to and be sustained at viable levels, it will be necessary
20 to have more flexibility to manage seals and sea lions in identifiable

1 areas where they cause unacceptable mortality levels in specific fish
2 runs; and

3 WHEREAS, While recent amendments to the federal Marine Mammal
4 Protection Act do allow for lethal removal of problem seals or sea
5 lions, the process established to do so is cumbersome and time-
6 consuming and will do little to protect the fish; and

7 WHEREAS, Seal and sea lion predation of anadromous fish is a
8 problem that has been going on for some time and needs to be addressed
9 with some urgency;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the Marine
11 Mammal Protection Act be modified to allow for a more common-sense
12 approach to managing predacious seals and sea lions, including
13 provision for reasonable, balanced, and prudent population levels of
14 seals and sea lions in Washington state and provision for the active
15 management of abundant populations at set levels determined with modern
16 wildlife management science by federal and state management agencies,
17 including use of a less cumbersome lethal removal option when and where
18 necessary. In asking for these amendments, it is not our intention to
19 decimate or eliminate seals and sea lions but to find balance between
20 protection of marine mammals and protection of anadromous fish.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
23 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
25 Washington.

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